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" Now, Sir, the Economic Enquiry Committee which the Government appointed in the early part of this year made a recommendation to the following effect:—

'In consideration of the fact that generally the harvest time is the time when it is least advantageous for a ryot to sell his crops, although we are aware that to some extent the crops are the security for the payment of kists, and unless the Government collect it then, there is some slight risk that the ryot will sell his crop to pay his other debts and neglect to pay his kists rendering its recovery more difficult, we recommend that the proposal to defer the kist dates until some little time after the harvest should receive the careful consideration of the Government.'

" As I have already said it is one of our standing principles that the first kist should be demanded only after the usual harvest. But, Sir, on this recommendation of the committee we referred the whole question to the Board of Revenue and have asked it to consider and report whether the kistbandi requires revision in any district or in any portion of a district. It is therefore open to hon. Members of this House or to anyone else to make representations to the Collector of the district or to the Board of Revenue to make an alteration of the kistbandi."

The resolution was put and carried.

(4) HALF-FEE CONCESSION TO STUDENTS OF MUSLIM, BACKWARD AND DEPRESSED COMMUNITIES

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" Mr. President, I beg the leave of the House to move Resolution No. 2 regarding half-fee concession to Muslim students, etc., which stands in the name of Mr. S. M. K. Beyabani Sahib, on the agenda."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" I move under Standing Order 33 that the consideration of Resolutions Nos. 2 to 7 be held over and that precedence be given to Resolution No. 9, which deals with the Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" I am afraid, Sir, there are far too many requests to change the order of business, so that those gentlemen in whose names the other resolutions are ballotted are put at a severe handicap. As a matter of fact, I expected that my resolution with regard to the constitution of a committee to investigate into jail conditions would be given preference. Having regard to the fact that one hon. Member had already been given a chance to go against the order in the agenda, I do not think it is prudent for me to press my request."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—" Under Standing Order 33, I move that Resolution No. 7 regarding the grant of loans to the ryot population be taken up immediately."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I am afraid there have been too many deviations from the agenda. At this rate, I should like to go on with the agenda as it is. I take it that Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan has got the leave of the House to move Resolution No. 2 standing in the name of Mr. Beyabani Sahib."

The House signified its consent.

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Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'*This Council recommends to the Government that the present Government orders pertaining to half-fee concession may be revised, and pupils and students belonging to Muslim, Oriya and backward and depressed communities, in all schools and colleges, Government, local bodies or aided, shall be given half-fee concession as a rule, that poverty certificate shall be required to be produced only in case of doubt and that the certificate of poverty produced from recognized persons shall in all cases be accepted by the heads of the institutions.*'

" Sir, I do not wish to take up much time of the House. But I hope the House is already aware of the hardship that is experienced by the members of the various communities to whom half-fee concession was given previous to the decision of one of the Ministers in charge of Education to take away that concession from each of those communities. What the resolution seeks to do is not a thing which will involve the Government financially very much. Half-fee concession is there in one form or other. Half-fee concession is given to a number of pupils and students who get certificates of poverty from recognized persons. Sir, this poverty certificate is a thing which if properly exercised will be of real benefit in distinguishing between persons who deserve the half-fee concession from those who do not. But as a matter of fact, what happens is when a certificate is needed from a certain pupil or student, it is only such students who have got any influence, or who really are students belonging to an influential section of the community, find it possible to reach a recognized person or authority and get that certificate in order to secure the half-fee concession. It becomes difficult for headmasters and principals of schools and colleges to distinguish between a person that does deserve that concession and one that does not. What happens is that people who really do not deserve the concession get it and people deserving it do not get it. In order to remove that difficulty, this resolution is brought before this House. What is sought to be done by this resolution is to prevent people who really can pay full fees from getting the half-fee concession. It is with that object this clause is inserted in the resolution, 'that poverty certificate shall be required to be produced only in case of doubt.' If the headmaster or principal in charge of the institution doubts the poverty of the pupil who has been paying half-fee and he thinks that the boy can pay full fees, then he can ask that boy to get a certificate to testify to his real poverty. But, on the other hand, what is being done now is to force poor boys who cannot pay full fees to bring a certificate, and it is very difficult for them to bring a certificate and on that account they are unable to continue the studies.

" The other thing which I wish to say in this connexion is that the hon. Minister may of course come forward and say that the Muslim Education Committee is sitting and that that Committee will be considering this question also. But, Sir, I do not know when that Committee will be able to finish its work and when it will submit its report to the Government. In the meantime, this little difficulty that

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exists in this matter can be removed by the hon. Minister himself, and I am sure that if that Committee comes to any decision with regard to this particular point, the hon. Minister can consider that also. But, meanwhile, what we would request the hon. Minister to do is to just remove this defect in order to enable the really deserving poor students to prosecute their studies without any hindrance."

* B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—" Mr. President, in rising to second this resolution, I am fully aware of the policy of retrenchment that both the Government and the Members of this Council are concerned about at this moment. So far as this resolution as it stands is concerned, I do not think that there is any additional financial charge intended to be imposed upon the Government. Because, what it seeks to do is only to set the whole thing in order, so that the poor students may not be obstructed in the matter of prosecuting their studies. As the hon. Mover has said, what happens really is that when a Muslim boy or a boy of a backward class seeks admission, he is asked to produce a poverty certificate and it is a condition that the certificate must be from certain local officials or presidents of taluk boards or district boards or chairmen of municipalities. We know in these days, it is only the rich and the more influential people that can ever have access to the tahsildar of the locality or the district board or taluk board president and such other personages. What really happens is—I know that such things have happened in many cases—that in the case of the very poor students the tahsildar cannot be expected to know them, nor have the parents any facilities to approach the tahsildar. At times it becomes very difficult to approach the district board or taluk board president, perhaps because in the previous election this poor parent might not have helped the particular president he should approach, or he might have helped his opponent. For this reason, he may be unable to approach the particular president. As a matter of fact, even though the boy is really poor he is very often deprived of the benefit of the half-fee concession for reason of not being able to obtain the necessary poverty certificate from a recognized gentleman. The result is that many parents are very often prevented from educating their boys. I know actual instances in which students have had to stop their education on account of the fact that they were not in a position to produce the poverty certificate which they are required to produce under the rules. It may be in certain cases that on account of the influence wielded by rich and influential gentlemen they are able to get a poverty certificate even though they do not deserve any help. What the resolution seeks to do is to vest the discretion in the heads of institutions who will be quite familiar with the affairs of the locality, and only if the headmaster or principal feels any doubt about the poverty of the boy, he should demand a poverty certificate. The resolution has been put in a very modest form, and I do not see any reason why the hon. Minister should not accept it. I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution."

4 p.m. * Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—" Mr. President, I thought that the resolution would not be taken up; but since some members in whose names

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the resolution stood moved for precedence being given to this motion, I am glad that this has been taken now up for the consideration of the House. The House knows that education is an important thing for the backward communities, and representing, as I do, the depressed classes, I must say that without education the depressed classes cannot attain to any social status, because it is only education that gives them the idea of independence, self-respect and equality. The depressed classes are still backward and still poor. Because these people are very poor, this concession is necessary for them. I must say the depressed classes are much poorer than the Muslims or Oriyas or other backward classes. So I feel it my duty to support this resolution.

"There has been difficulty experienced in the matter of getting poverty certificates. The parent has to approach the village headman or karnam, and it takes a long time for these people to accede to the request of the parent. Moreover, he has to propitiate these demi gods in order to obtain the certificate. If the application goes to the tahsildar, he sleeps over it for months and the result is that the poor student is sent out of the school. So these difficulties stand in the way of the education of the poor boys. It will not be out of place for me to say that in the State of Travancore which is second to none in point of education, a more liberal concession is allowed in favour of the depressed classes. It gives free education up to the school final class to pupils of the depressed classes, whether Hindu or Christian, and they are not required to produce poverty certificates either from the headman or the tahsildar. The moment a pupil says to the headmaster of a school that he belongs to a depressed class, he is allowed free. If that is the state of things in a Native State which is orthodox, I do not see why our Government should not make a similar concession, without asking for poverty certificates. I appeal to the hon. Minister as well as to the other Members of the House to accord their support to this resolution and give effect to it without delay. With these few remarks, I support the resolution."

* Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo:—" Sir, this resolution has reference to Rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules, and the classes mentioned in the resolution are found mentioned in that rule also. But there are certain defects which have to be remedied. The first thing is that the rule does not make any provision for any appeal being preferred against the decision of the management of a school. There ought to be some appeal provided. Especially with regard to schools under public management there is some difficulty. The Government grant a lump sum to a municipal school or board school, say, Rs. 3,000. Now the managers of these schools or the local bodies are expected to meet out of this sum the loss of fee income, whereas in regard to private schools under private management, the Government will have to make good the loss of fee income. That is what the rule provides. In regard to the schools under public management, the managers of schools under public management do not view with favour the applications made for half-fee concessions. The affected party becomes the judge and the judge decides the case in his own favour. That is the state of things, and unless the Government remedy that defect, there will be always this difficulty standing in

the way of these poor pupils of depressed classes and backward communities. The real difficulty lies this way. If you take a certificate to the municipal chairman who is the manager of the high school, he says 'I won't respect it', and no record is maintained in any school as to the applications made and how they were disposed of. The rule says in cases of doubt certificates may be produced. But whose doubt? That is not mentioned. Is it the doubt of the headmaster of the school or the manager of the school? If it is the doubt of the headmaster of the school, I think he will view the matter more generously than the chairman of the municipality, because the latter is naturally concerned with saving more money. There are also other defects to be remedied. I have given a draft amendment to the hon. the Minister as to how the rule may be amended. We need not fear that the Retrenchment Committee will apply its axe to the concession granted under that rule. If my proposal as to the amendment of Rule 92 is accepted, then there will be no difficulty."

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAIH—" Sir, thanks to Government, municipalities and local boards that have been extending the grant of half-fee concessions to the depressed classes. But there is difficulty at times in the way of these pupils getting them in time. Taking the case of the students studying in the colleges, as soon as the college year opens, the principals of these colleges insist on the students of the depressed classes to remit the full fees, and it takes not one or two months, but sometimes five to six months before the students come to know that they are allowed half-fee concession. In the case of high schools, recently I was told that students who had not taken 60 per cent in English would not be eligible for the half-fee concession. As a matter of fact, I know that some of the students due to the hardship in paying full fees at the beginning of the term had to discontinue their studies. Though Rule 92 of the Education Manual gives power to the members of municipalities and district boards to grant certificates, such certificates are not taken into consideration by the chairmen of municipal councils or the presidents of district boards. The question arises whether the member who gives such certificates belongs to the chairman's party or the opposition. If he belongs to the chairman's party, the poverty certificate is given effect to. If otherwise, it is not valued. The only remedy for these difficulties would be to admit all Adi-Dravidas on half-fee concession straightaway. The Government have already realized that the depressed classes, Oriyas and Mussalmans are backward in their education, and ought to get a certain amount of encouragement. If they really want to help these people, I would suggest to them to accept my proposal. With these few remarks, I heartily support this resolution."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN—" Sir, I beg to move—

'that all words after the word " rule " be omitted.'

" Sir, when half-fee concession is to be given to Muslims, Oriyas and backward and depressed communities as a rule, the question of poverty certificate does not arise at all. So the words after the word 'rule' are

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unnecessary. There cannot be any doubt as to whether a particular pupil belongs to the Oriya or Muslim or a backward community. When half-fee concessions are to be granted to members of these backward classes, the question of poverty certificate does not arise. Therefore, I move that all these words be omitted."

AHMED MIRAN SAHIB Bahadur:—" I second it."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" Sir, I rise to speak in regard to the motion before the House, not on the amendment. I wish to mention one point to the hon. the Minister. So far as the managers of these private institutions are concerned, they are always willing to give half-fee concessions to Muhammadans and other depressed class members, because Government have really promised to compensate them for their loss of fee income. The complaint of the managers of these private institutions is that, though they get a promise in the beginning, in practice they are not convinced that it really is compensation for the fee income which they forego by awarding half-fee concessions; because the Government make only an award of a lump sum, and they do not inform the management how that amount was arrived at, so that they are practically in the dark as to what proportion of the full amount of grant represents their contribution to the net cost of management and what proportion represents these backward-classes concessions. It is sometimes easier to find out the basis of a levy of income-tax, but not the process by which these grants are made by the Director of Public Instruction's office. I would make an appeal to the hon. the Minister to see that the managers of these institutions get a proportion of the grants really representing the loss of fee income by way of half-fee concessions. If only these managements are assured that they are really getting what they have foregone by these fee concessions, they will be only too ready to help the Muslims and depressed class communities."

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—" I am reliably informed that prior to 4-15 p.m.
1920, Muhammadans were given concession whether they were rich or poor. I suppose the reason for that must have been the fact that the Government wanted to encourage education among Muslims. I do not know what transpired afterwards which made this change necessary. I am aware, Sir, that there is a rule in the Education Department Code that half-fee concession must be given to certain classes as a rule and that in cases of doubt, poverty certificates must be called for. The only difficulty is that it has been interpreted by different institutions in different ways. According to my interpretation, as soon as a student belonging to any one of these communities applies for admission to a college or school, he must straightaway be admitted on half-fee concession and only in cases of doubt should the heads of institutions have power to require the student to produce a poverty certificate. That is my reading and interpretation of this rule. But what is actually happening in the colleges and schools is different. When students belonging to these communities go to a school, they are asked to pay full fee and, if they say that they belong to the poorer communities, they are asked to produce poverty certificates. There is no question

of admitting them on half-fee as a rule and asking for the production of poverty certificates in cases of doubt. They have reversed the process of this rule. Many such cases have been brought to my notice. In the Maharaja's College at Cocanada and in a certain school at Chicacole, the students belonging to the Muslim community and the depressed classes mentioned in the rule are not given half-fee concession at all. Under these circumstances, my submission is that the Government must make it clear to these institutions that the interpretation of this rule is this, that is, that they should straightaway admit the students belonging to these communities on half-fee and that only in cases of doubt they should ask for the production of poverty certificates.

" Sir, it may be asked, where is the difficulty for the production of this certificate. As the House is aware, the parents of the students belonging to these communities are ignorant. In the first place they do not know the real procedure. If they are asked to produce a certificate, they go to a Magistrate or other authority mentioned in the rule. This authority asks them to go to the village munsif for the purpose. Sir, cases have been brought to my notice in which the village munsifs have not ordinarily granted these certificates. Then, Sir, as stated by the previous speaker, it is only persons with some influence in the locality or members of local bodies that generally get these certificates. When this happens, the really needy persons do not get the concession. That is the reason why the resolution says that students and pupils belonging to these communities must in the first instance be admitted at half-fee rates. We are all aware that the heads of these institutions generally know whether the parents of the boys seeking admission are or are not poor. In such cases, there is no necessity for the production of this certificate at all. It is only in cases of doubt that students should be asked to produce poverty certificates.

" The second part of this resolution says that when poverty certificates are produced from the authorities mentioned in the rule, they must be accepted. That has not been the case in several instances. In spite of the fact that certificates have been produced, no such concessions have been given. There would have been no necessity for a resolution of this kind if really the rule as it stands had been correctly interpreted and applied by the private schools and schools managed by local bodies. There is a real grievance now and I appeal to the hon. the Minister for Education to take early steps in this matter and do the needful to see that the local boards and private aided institutions conform to the provisions of this rule and not deviate from them for any reason whatever."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" I hope, Sir, the House will pardon me if I venture to say that the real issue has been missed so far. Sir, the policy of the Government until a few years ago was that as the Muslim community was behind other communities in the matter of modern education, English education, as the community was not taking to English education as easily as the other communities in this Presidency and as this community deserved encouragement to enable

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it to take to English education — the community had great reluctance towards European education, modern education or Christian education as they then conceived of it — the members of the community should be allowed to enter and be admitted in colleges and schools and in all educational institutions, public or private, at half-fee concession. Up to a certain stage, this policy did work very well; but later on, suddenly, without any facts and without any statistics before them to justify their action, the Government changed their policy and presumed that the Muslim community had come up to the level of the other communities and that they did not require this concession any more. They therefore changed the rule. I contend, Sir, that the Government were not the least justified in changing this rule which enabled Muslim students to be admitted on half-fees. The fact still remains — I do not know what the hon. Minister is going to say — that the Muslim community has not progressed to any appreciable extent in the matter of English education. There are still large sections of the community who are averse to modern education. They still think only of religious instruction and religious education alone. If the Government have any interest in the Muslim community progressing in education, then I say that the rule which they unwarrantedly changed ought to be restored. The half-fee concession allowed on condition of the production of poverty certificate has no doubt worked very many difficulties in the case of the really deserving students. People with influence, people with a certain amount of acquaintance with the revenue authorities, have been able easily to produce poverty certificates and have sought admission and have been admitted into the educational institutions without difficulty. The poor people could not do it. That is so. I am not oblivious of what the hon. Minister is going to say, namely, that there cannot be any reason why the rich people in the Muslim community should not pay. That argument is no doubt very difficult to meet, if we have in view the standpoint that poverty alone is standing in the way of the Muslim community taking to modern education. I assert that the Muslim community is not behind the other communities in education solely on account of poverty. It is behind other communities in this matter on account of its deep-rooted attitude towards modern education and on account of its distaste for English education. Their aversion to English education persists still, although the late Sir Syed Ahmed Khan succeeded in getting rid of it to a large extent. And when this aversion persists, the question of poverty or no poverty does not arise. I do not say that the rich among the Muslim community ought not to pay for the education of their children. Far from that, the real position is that the Muslim community has not yet realized the advantages of modern education and seen its way to come up to the level of the other communities in the matter of English education and yet the Government have withdrawn the concession. On the contrary, the Government should have continued it. Therefore, I say, Sir, that the change was neither authorized nor warranted.

" Now, what the Government have to do if the Muslim community should take to education just as the other communities, is to take away

that rule and bring about the old status to prevail. I entirely agree with Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti when he says that the reason why the private aided and the local board schools are not granting half-fee concessions to Muslim and depressed class students is that the Government are not now making special grants to such institutions, and these institutions are not sure that they will be compensated for the loss of fee income. I would therefore suggest that the hon. Minister should revert back to the old policy which was introduced in 1920 inasmuch as the Muslim community has not made any appreciable progress in the field of education and thereby assure the aided institutions that the loss of fee income would be paid to them if they admitted Muslim pupils."

Khan Bahadur T. M. MOIDOO SAHIB Bahadur:—" Coming as I do from Malabar which is a very backward district (Voices: 'No') backward so far as Muslim education is concerned, I must say a word on behalf of this resolution. The Mappillas as a rule are very backward in education and it was with great difficulty that they were induced to take advantage of this half-fee concession. With the relaxation of this rule granting half-fee concession there has been a set back in the education of the Mappillas. Recently, the Malabar District Board passed a resolution restoring the half-fee concession to the Mappilla students of Ernad and Walluvanad, the two taluks of the Malabar district where illiteracy predominates. Somehow or other, though the board was willing to give that concession, the Government in their Education department did not see eye to eye with the board. So much so, this resolution was not put into operation.

" On more than one occasion, the unanimous verdict of the board was in favour of giving half-fee concession. At the present time when there is a move on the part of the Government to investigate into the question of Muhammadan education in this Presidency and do something, I think it will not be out of order if this House gives a unanimous vote in favour of this resolution. The Mappillas as a rule are very poor, especially in the Ernad and Walluvanad taluks, though in
4-30 p.m. other portions of the district they are very rich. As some previous speakers said, they do not know the value of education. They may spend Rs. 200 on fire-works during the marriages of their children. But they will never pay annas 10 as school fees when it comes to that. It is only ignorance that is the cause of this state of things and this has been the cause of some trouble all over the country, especially in Malabar. To get over such difficulties, it is wise on the part of Government to spend some money on the education of these Mappillas rather than on jails and other things. I therefore humbly request this House to adopt this resolution as framed by the mover, considering the present difficulties under which we are labouring."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:— " Mr. President, Sir, the object of the motion, as I understood from both the Mover and the Seconder, is to make a recommendation to the Government that the present rules with regard to half-fee concession be revised and poverty certificates be insisted upon only in cases of

doubt. So far as that point is concerned, the existing rule No. 92 lays down exactly what my hon. Friends do desire to have now. Rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules says that students of the classes mentioned there should be charged only one-half of the rates actually in force in the institution, provided the guardian or the parent concerned is so poor that a grant of this concession is necessary to enable the student to continue his studies. The production of the poverty certificate should be required only in cases of doubt. That is what is exactly provided for in the rule which has already been framed by the Government. So far as the obligation on the part of the management to grant this concession is concerned, the rule makes that also clear; because the rule says that in the case of those pupils whose parents are poor, the management *shall* levy only half rates. It gives them no option to levy a higher rate. Therefore, on both the points on which the hon. the Mover, the Seconder and some other hon. Friends have spoken, there is already ample provision in the rule as it exists at present. With regard to the actual working of the rule, the question was investigated some years ago and the Director of Public Instruction reporting on the working of this rule said that the initial responsibility with regard to the working of this rule rested upon the head-masters and the managers concerned. If the head-master is of opinion that the parents of a student of a backward class are poor and that the grant of this beneficial concession is necessary, such student shall have the half-fee concession without any further consideration and in cases of doubt, the poverty certificate prescribed is called for. That is how the rule has been worked according to the report of the Director of Public Instruction. My hon. Friends have now said that difficulties are experienced. No such difficulties till now have been brought to the notice of Government. The rule is clear: if any difficulty has arisen, it must be with regard to the actual working of the rule. In view of the observations that have been made on the floor of this House, I am prepared to communicate a copy of this discussion to the Director of Public Instruction and in the light of these discussions to issue necessary instructions to see that the rule which has been framed by the Government is observed in practice; and I think, if this is done, it must satisfy hon. Members."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" What about other points with regard to management? Will you give us an assurance? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" The rules do provide that in addition to the grant otherwise payable to a school, the management will also be paid a grant equal to the loss in fee income owing to the award of fee-concessions. If instances of violation of the rule are brought to the notice of the Government, I shall certainly examine them and see that such further action as may be necessary is taken.

" With regard to all the other points raised by hon. Members, provision on the lines which they require has already been made in the

rules by the Government. With regard to the working of those rules, information so far available to the Government is that they have been worked properly. But if in the light of the discussion any further enquiry is needed and further instructions called for, I shall see that such instructions are issued. If it is urged that any further concessions ought to be granted at this time of financial stringency, I do not think it is possible to give any such undertaking. I may remind hon. Members of the House that of the several points that have been specifically referred to the Muslim Education Committee, of which several hon. Members of this House are already Members, this point, viz., whether further concession ought to be given to Muslims, is one. On their recommendation what further action will have to be taken will have to be decided. The points referred to by my hon. Friends, Messrs. Patnaik and Devadasan, are points which are not covered by the resolution of which notice has been given. Those are matters which require independent consideration, but they are certainly not relevant to the resolution which is now before us. So far as this resolution is concerned, all that I can undertake to do is, to communicate a copy of the discussion that has taken place and also issue any instructions, if necessary, to the Director of Public Instruction, to see that the rules are observed in toto."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, I beg leave to withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

(5) SUPPLY OF WATER TO SALEM TOWN FROM METTUR RESERVOIR

Diwan Bahadur S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR :—" I beg to move the resolution that stands in my name which runs as follows :—

' *This Council recommends to the Government that steps should be taken to supply water to Salem town from Mettur Reservoir for drinking purposes at an early date.*'

" Sir, in moving this resolution, I do not propose to advance the same arguments that were made in support of a similar resolution moved by me on 29th January 1930. It is a well-known fact that Salem town is in need of good and sufficient drinking water. It is also admitted that Government have completely failed to satisfy the needs of the people in the past. The Government have refused to supply water from Mettur dam even for drinking purposes, if not for irrigation purposes. His Excellency the Governor has seen the place very carefully and realized the difficulties which the poor inhabitants of Salem were undergoing for getting drinking water. So I think it is not necessary for me to say much in order to impress upon the mind of the hon. the Chief Minister the urgent necessity of supplying drinking water to the people of Salem. When I moved a resolution on the